Amendments to the Claims

1-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method of measuring degradation in a tunable laser comprising the steps of:

    a. performing a first set of initial measurements on the laser to provide a reference set of measurements corresponding to a performance of the laser when no degradation has occurred, wherein performing the first set of initial measurements comprises:

        i. setting a gain current of the laser to a specified predetermined value;

        ii. setting tuning currents of the laser to zero;

        iii. measuring an output ~~power/etalon/wavelength~~ power, etalon, or wavelength of the laser while a current of one tuning section is increased and while currents in all other tuning sections are set to zero; and

        iv. repeating steps (i) – (iii) for all tuning sections of the laser;

    b. performing a second set of measurements on the laser where some degradation has occurred; and

    c. effecting a comparison of the first and second set of measurements so as to provide a measure of the degradation in the laser to compensate for the performance of the laser.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the specified predetermined value of the gain current selected is an average gain current of operating points in a lookup table corresponding to the laser.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein performing the second set of measurements comprises:

d. setting a gain current of the laser to a specified predetermined value;

e. setting tuning currents of the laser to zero;

f. measuring an output power/etalon/wavelength of the laser while a current of one tuning section is increased and while currents in all other tuning sections are set to zero; and

g. repeating steps (d) – (f) for all tuning sections of the laser.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said comparison of the first set of measurements with the second set of measurements is carried out by comparing wavelength or etalon responses of the degradation of the device that are measured.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein positions of mode jumps in the two sets of measurements are compared and a transform is obtained and wherein mode jumps from the second set of measurements are transformed to the same currents as corresponding mode jumps determined from the first measurement.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of converting operating points of the tunable laser by said transform to obtain a new set of operating points, wherein the new set of operating points compensates for degradation in the laser.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein performing the second set of measurements comprises:

locating a subset of mode jumps from the first measurement set; and

re-measuring a region around each of the mode jumps in the same manner as the first set of measurements.

23. (previously presented) A computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for causing a processor to perform the method of claim 15.

24. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the computer readable medium is a read only memory.

25-28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) A method of measuring degradation in a tunable laser comprising the steps of:

a. performing a first set of initial measurements on the laser to provide a reference set of measurements corresponding to a performance of the laser when no degradation has occurred;

b. performing a second set of measurements on the laser where some degradation has occurred wherein performing the second set of measurements comprises:

    i. setting a gain current of the laser to a specified predetermined value;

    ii. setting tuning currents of the laser to zero;

    iii. measuring an output ~~power/etalon/wavelength~~ power, etalon, or wavelength of the laser while a current of one tuning section is increased and while currents in all other tuning sections are set to zero; and

    iv. repeating steps (i) – (iii) for all tuning sections of the laser; and

c. effecting a comparison of the first and second set of measurements so as to provide a measure of the degradation in the laser to compensate for the performance of the laser.

30-31. (canceled)